

23 July 1917

Charleston

Frie

Sunday

My Billy

Thank you very much
for the loaf. Your ~~couple~~
has tried me. & I made
9 loaves on Saturday
which were quite successful.
I find that Thosie now
took a prize for bread.
making so she runs all
about it & could easily do
it herself. only she has
so much else to do. So I
expect I shall make it
once a week at any rate.
We have had a terrific
party here for the week
end. Clive & Mary. Saxon
who suddenly telegraphed
to ask if he could come &

is still here. & Barbara in
her tent who spent most
of the time here. I don't
know how long she means
to stay there. She said a
week or two but I strongly
suspect she'll stay all the
summer. As long as she doesn't
bring all the world about her
ears I don't mind as she's
very independent. but she's
rather at the mercy of
people if they choose to
camp at her door.

I have had my copy
of your stories - You don't
care what I think of your
writing of course, do you
Billy? so it won't interest
you at all to be told that
I was amused, interested

& fascinated by the skill
& completeness with which
it was done - No doubt
you are a very good writer
& I should not think you
had much to fear from the
rivalry of Katherine Mans-
field & Co. Why don't you
write more short things?
Perhaps you wish now.
Not that I don't want
you to write novels too.
But there is a kind of
completeness about a thing
like this that is very
satisfactory & that you can
hardly get in a novel.

I liked Carington's writing.
It has occurred to me -
did you seriously mean
that we might produce a

book (I mean a pamphlet)
of wood cuts? Both Duncan
& I want very much to
do some. & if you really
thought it feasible I should
like to get a few other people
also to produce one or two
each & get together a small
collection. Could this be
arranged with your new
press? & if so how many
could there be & what
size? I would undertake
to get the wood cuts if
you think it could be done
in the course of the next
few months - or whenever
you hadnt anything else
you wanted to print. It
wouldnt mean much trouble
for you as there'd be very
little letter press -

78a

Mary gave me a queer account of your & her domestic affairs! She said the cook didn't like your basement & wanted after all to stay with her. Is this true? It seems very odd after all the rows I've heard they had had. It is, with you, the ~~set~~ fuel & another cook or what will you do? I hope matters with John get arranged.

Saxon has now announced to me that he wants to stay a week - I foresee endless visitors to Barbara's encampment which is rather a nuisance. I have had a pathetic

letter from Snow begging
me to go & see her at
Leeds in August when
I shall be alone there. I
think I shall have to go
for a few days but it
will be a ~~metamorphosis~~
expedition & a long way
to go.

How are you? Please
write & tell me

Yours V B

Charleston

8th 1917
Aug.

Wednesday

My Billy.

My bicycle has collapsed
& must have a new tire.
Otherwise I had thought
of coming over to you
today or tomorrow. I
shall I hope get a new
one in a day or two
& will try to come over
to tea as soon as the
weather allows - Of course
you know you'd be
very welcome here -
for any meals or to
stay the night. But I
presay you ought to
come. I've had a letter

from Alex asking if
she can come over to
tea & possibly to sleep
while she's with you.
I must write to her -
but I rather want her
out of having her to
sleep. as we've had
such crowds of people
lately, with Barbara
in her tent always.

Now she's gone & I'm
enjoying freedom. I
don't much want Alex
to appear ~~except~~ for tea.
(Of course you pretend
you're not to come
either. but it's the people
I don't ask who are

so persistent in coming.)

So I shall try to make
out that wire pull &
ask her to tea only -

As a matter of fact
Magnard probably comes
today. & we have also
Florie & Faith's baby in
the house - so there's
one truth in it -

only room for me
ape - not for an
ore brown elephant
like Alex.

Yours
V B

Charleston

28 August
1917

Tuesday

My Billy.

I hope you didn't start for the picnic on Sunday. But this weather awful. All our apples are being thrown down & unless we can devise some way of making cider, all of them will be wasted. I suppose yours are too. This morning I looked out in a scene of devastation in the garden. All our sunflowers were laid low. & sweet peas bent to the ground. Barbara was nearly killed in her tent by a great branch falling almost on to it & eventually came in here to sleep with Cunningham. Her young man, Nick, who arrived

unexpectedly from the front
yesterday. Slept in the
barn. Lytton & Caumont
have gone today & we are
actually alone except
for Barbara & Nick in the
tent. Thank goodness -
but Clive & Mary come the
day after tomorrow so I know
it's no good getting you
to come for Saturday as
you suggested. They will only
be here a week I think
so perhaps you could come
after they go. Meanwhile
as soon as this wind
stops perhaps I could come
over & see you.

I went to Brighton again
& we have at last actually
got the donkey to the
children's great delight.
It's a nice beast. Very obstinate

& rather slow. I doubt if it
would ever get to Asheville.
or even to the top of the down.

I hope you're being scrutable.
Smiling with, taking pleasure
& sport. It's really a delicious
smile I think. I often have
a drop in the sky when I
can come by it.

I believe Roger is coming
for the week end. Shall
I bring him over to see
you?

Yours V.B.

Charleston

Sept
13th

(1917)

Thursday

My Billy,

Yes I think Tuesday
would do as well, my
perhaps Duncan couldn't
come - However I can
let you know later.

I return your Kodak.

My domestic play
have changed a little
since yesterday - for the
better I think. Mabel's
young man wants to
marry her as soon as
he can get leave - probably
during the next few
months. She therefore
doesn't want to leave
me first. I say also
that she will almost

certainly return after
she's married - I shall
still get a governess.
but I need not get a
house maid, as Mabel
& Missie would do all with
a woman to help in the
mornings. I think be a
great blessing to have Mabel
still here too as she will
look after the children to
some extent. & keep
Missie happy. Also with
her & a governess I
shall be very free.

Do get me one if you
can - you may
certainly have free
hand -

I forgot to tell you
yesterday - Mudge

asked me to find her
rooms for a fortnight
in October. for herself
alone. I suggested to
her that you might let
her Ashdown. but I
didn't in any way
commit you. I said
you might be letting it
to some one else. &
you can easily refuse.
But if she writes
you'll know why it is
yours V B

Charleston

19 Sept 1917

Wednesday

My Betty.

I was afraid you wouldn't be able to come today but it seemed hopeless to try a picnic. & I thought probably Desmond might come over. The children go tomorrow.

Michael was simply delighted with his Kodak & there were no difficulties about it.

In fact I think the precautions were really unnecessary.

Unfortunately the weather hasn't lent itself to photography.

Duncan & Bummy are going for their holidays on Monday & will be away for a week. I hear that Roger can come before going to you & wants to come I think on the Friday. S.

I fear I shant be alone
at all. I suppose you
wouldnt come while he is
here? I should be very glad
if you would - any night
you liked. Anyhow I hope
I shall see you but to come
for a night or two if you
can. We are very hard
at work trying to get the
dresses done for Copeau & the
Duncan goes on his holiday
as he wants to take them
up to London with him if
possible. Barbara has
returned & is staying in
the house, it being too bad
weather to camp out
but I expect she will go
on Monday at any rate.

After all Michel has

decided to go which is rather
tiresome. There is no par-
ticular new reason for it
simply she thinks that if
I only have a woman in to
help Thirrie she ~~would~~
have more housework to do
than she likes. I think
it's perhaps rather foolish
of her as it will mean
she can't marry Dick.
but I can't try to persuade
her to stay if she doesn't
want to. So I shall have
to get a housemaid as well
as a governess. Do you
think it at all possible
your woman would come
to me? But perhaps she
only wants to go out by
the day. She could of
course easily go & see her
mother quite often. but

that may not be what she
wants. Anyhow will you let
me know? Also Fannie
told me that Nelly & Lottie
had a friend who wanted a
place (but this is quite
vague) Do you think I
could find out about her if
your woman is in good?

There are no signs of a
governess - Oh Lord, how I
hate these domestic upheavals.

It's a nuisance about Kate
as I see I shall be rather
tied at any rate for some
time unless the foreman
turns out to be more of a
wonder than I can expect.

We had great fun last night
with the children who acted a
play, entirely their own invention.
Rachel as Othello. Bumpy "Monsieur"
Julian "Keynes" & Quentin a humatic.
Rachel was amazing. accepting first
Honour & then Keynes. I can't think
how they got hold of it all. Love VB